

# ***COW/CALF CORNER***

## ***The Newsletter***

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## **U.S. and Oklahoma Cattle Numbers Decrease**

Derrell S. Peel, OSU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

As anticipated, the latest Cattle inventory showed that the total number of cattle and calves in the U.S. decreased in 2007. This after only three years of expansion from the 2004 cyclical low in cattle inventories. The January 1 total inventory is 96.7 million head, down fractionally from last year. The 2007 calf crop is 37.4 million head, also down slightly from one year ago. The estimated beef cow herd is 32.6 million cows, down one percent and the estimated number of beef replacement heifers is 5.7 million head, down 3.5 percent from 2007. The dairy cow herd is up one percent and the number of dairy replacement heifers is up 3.4 percent from last year.

The report confirms that feeder supplies will be tight in 2008, especially in the first half of the year. Estimated feeder supplies outside of feedlots is down fractionally from one year ago. The reported number of feeder cattle grazing small grains pasture in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas is 1.75 million head, only 67 percent of the 2.6 million head reported in 2007.

The state of Oklahoma showed some recovery in 2007 from the 2005/2006 drought. The January 1, 2008 total cattle inventory is 5.4 million head, up nearly 3 percent from 2007. The number of beef cows is up 2.7 percent at 2.053 million head and the number of beef replacement heifers, at 410,000 head, is up 1.2 percent from last year. The Oklahoma 2007 calf crop was 1.95 million head, down one percent from 2006.

Clearly, drought in the Southeast played a significant role in the countercyclical decrease in cattle numbers in 2007. Beef cow herds in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee were down six, five, four and six percent respectively. Beef cow inventories in those four states decreased by a total of 194,000 head, accounting for 57 percent of the total decrease in the U.S. beef cow herd in 2007.

## **Texas Achieves Brucellosis “Free” Status**

Glenn Selk, OSU Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist

The United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS) is amending the brucellosis regulations concerning the interstate movement of cattle by changing the classification of Texas from Class A to Class Free. They have determined that Texas meets the standards for Class Free status. This action relieves certain restrictions on the interstate movement of cattle from Texas.

The last brucellosis-infected cattle herd in Texas was detected in August, 2005. The brucellosis reactors in the herd were depopulated. The remaining cattle in the herd were tested and found to be free of brucellosis. They were then released from quarantine in September, 2006. Since then, no brucellosis-affected herds have been detected in Texas.

This interim rule is effective February 1, 2008. USDA-APHIS will consider all comments concerning this action that are received on, or before April 1, 2008.

Upon noting that Texas is declared Brucellosis “Free”, Dr. Becky Brewer, Oklahoma State Veterinarian commented: “...Brucellosis Free status means that in most cases, Texas cattle will be able to move interstate without testing. According to Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas State Veterinarian, Texas will continue First Point Testing at the markets for three years. We are very pleased that our sister state has regained Free status. Oklahoma cattlemen will now be able to move cattle from Texas into Oklahoma more easily. Oklahoma has enjoyed Brucellosis Free status since April 26, 2001. Oklahoma will continue First Point Testing for at least one more year.”

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